

REMARKS

Claims 15-26 have been rejected and remain pending. In addition, claim 15 has been amended herein to recite that the backbone linkages of the polyamide nucleic acid oligomer are neutral amide backbone linkages. Applicants' specification fully supports this amendment (see, e.g., page 1, paragraph 2, and Example 5 starting on page 49). Thus, no new matter has been added.

In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 15-26.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 15-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement. In particular, the Examiner appeared to suggest that undue experimentation would have been needed to make and use a PNA oligomer having only a single neutral amide backbone linkage. In addition, the Examiner stated that copies of the declarations filed during prosecution of U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/168,791, 08/953,269, and 09/016,685 would need to be made of record in the instant application if it is desired by Applicant.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. To further prosecution, however, claim 15 has been amended herein to recite that the backbone linkages of the polyamide nucleic acid oligomer are neutral amide backbone linkages. In addition, copies of declarations filed during prosecution of U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/168,791, 08/953,269, and 09/016,685 are submitted herewith.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicant : Elliott Richelson et al.
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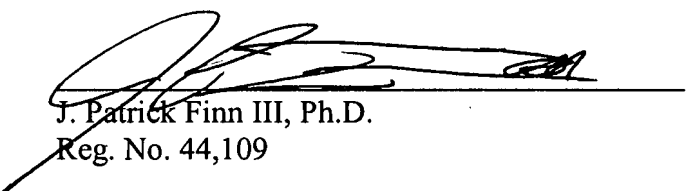
Attorney's Docket No.: 07039-126002 / "MMV-97-105,
MMV-00-028"

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 15-26 are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if such would expedite prosecution. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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